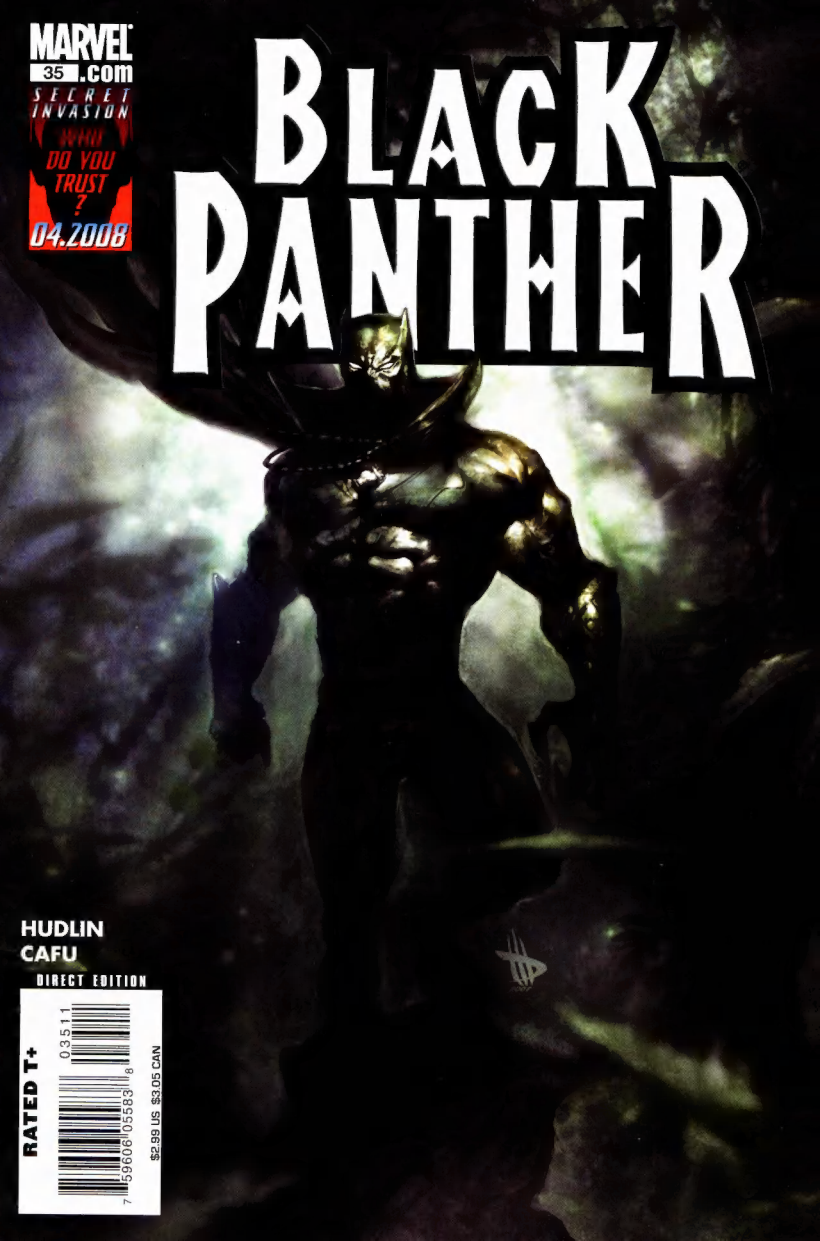
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WHO DO YOU TRUST ?
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BLACK PANTHER
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PREVIOUSLY

Unfettered by the yoke of colonization, the African warrior nation of WAKANDA flourished and became a high-tech, resource-rich, ecologically-sound paradise—one that makes the rest of the world seem primitive in comparison. Ruling over this kingdom are the BLACK PANTHER and his queen, STORM.

At the conclusion of America's super hero civil war, T'Challa and Ororo found themselves in desperate straits: on the losing side of the fray, at odds with Wakanda's ruling council, and without an embassy in the United States. However, their luck seemed to change when Reed Richards and Sue Storm offered the couple residence in the Baxter Building and their places in the Fantastic Four.

Now, after escaping a planet under attack by Zombie Galacti, evading the clutches of Psycho Man, and liberating a planet under the rule of Gangster Skrulls, the Black Panther is ready to return to Wakanda. However, he will not find his kingdom in the same state it was when he left it...

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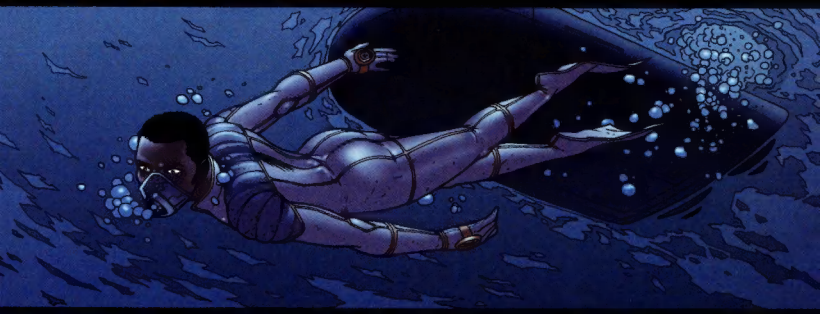
OFF THE COAST OF WAKANDA...
THIS IS CRAZY. WE'RE GOING TO GET CAUGHT.
NO, WE WON'T.
WE'RE GOING TO GET CAUGHT, AND OUR TRESPASS WILL BE USED AS A PRETEXT TO DECLARE WAR ON WAKANDA.
YOUR BROTHER IS NOT HERE. YOU NEED TO TAKE ACTION. AT LEAST SPY ON THEM... FIND OUT WHAT THEY ARE UP TO!

OKAY, I GO ALONE. I'M THE ONLY ONE WITH TRAINING FOR THIS.
BUT, SHURI, I SHOULD BE THERE TO--
PROTECT ME? YOU ARE NOT MY MAN.
AND YOU DON'T HAVE THE KIND OF TRAINING THE ROYAL FAMILY HAS. YOU'RE MORE LIKELY TO GET CAPTURED THAN ME.
IF I DON'T RETURN IN AN HOUR, GO FOR HELP. DON'T DO ANYTHING YOURSELF. UNDERSTOOD?



BACK TO AFRICA

K13

PART ONE

REGINALD HUDLIN — WRITER
CAFU — PENCILS
FRANCIS PORTELA — INKS
VAL STAPLES — COLORS
VC'S CORY PETIT — LETTERS
DAVE WILKINS — COVER
DANIEL KETCHUM — ASSISTANT EDITOR
AXEL ALONSO — EDITOR
JOE QUESADA — EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAN BUCKLEY — PUBLISHER

WELL, YOUR PAPERS SEEM TO BE IN ORDER. I GUESS WE'LL DROP YOU OFF AND HEAD BACK HOME.
OH GOD...NOT HIM!

MEANWHILE...
YOUR HIGHNESS! WE ARE SO PLEASED TO HEAR YOUR VOICE! WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE--
THANK YOU. I NEED AN IMMEDIATE UPDATE ON SHURI'S SITUATION.
STILL MISSING, YOUR HIGHNESS.
SEND ME ALL PERTINENT FILES ON THE SEARCH FOR HER.
RIGHT AWAY, SIR!
I ALSO WANT A COMPLETE REPORT ON THE LIKELY SUSPECT OF WHO PLANTED BOMBS AT THE WAKANDAN EMBASSY, AND A PROGRESS REPORT ON ITS RECONSTRUCTION.
ON ITS WAY, YOUR HIGHNESS!
AND LAUNCH A FULL-SCALE INVESTIGATION OF WHO KILLED CAPTAIN AMERICA. I WANT PRELIMINARY FINDINGS BY THE TIME I LAND.
UH... THAT MIGHT TAKE A LITTLE LONGER, SIR.
I'VE FREED AN ALIEN PLANET, HELPED FIGHT THE HULK, AND BURIED ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS. DO I HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING MYSELF?

NO, SIR! IS THERE ANYTHING--
HE HUNG UP.
THAT HE DID.
I'VE NEVER HEARD THE KING SO... AGGRAVATED.
HE'S GOT GOOD CAUSE. AND WITHOUT HIS WIFE BY HIS SIDE, HE'S LIKELY TO REMAIN... EDGY.
FOR STORM'S WHEREABOUTS, SEE X-MEN: MESSIAH COMPLEX. -EDITOR.
INCOMING CALL.
INCOMING CALL
-MOTHER-

THANK GOD YOU ARE BACK, T'CHALLA!
I WILL FIND SHURI, MOTHER. DON'T WORRY.
I KNOW YOU WILL, T'CHALLA. I WAS JUST CALLING TO SAY YOU CAN'T STAY AWAY SO LONG. YOU CAN'T BE GONE LIKE THAT AND BE KING. AND EVEN IF YOU AREN'T KING, YOUR MOTHER NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
I'M SORRY, MOTHER.
I KNOW YOU'RE SAVING THE WORLD, AND I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU--
BUT YOUR DAUGHTER IS MISSING AND YOU NEED ME TO HANDLE IT. I UNDERSTAND.
THAT IS THE MOST PRESSING MATTER, OF COURSE, BUT AFTER THAT, I WANT TO TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE ROYAL COURT. IT'S UP TO YOU, BUT I KNOW WHAT YOUR FATHER WOULD DO WITH THIS KIND OF TREACHERY AFOOT...
IS THERE SOMEONE YOU DON'T TRUST?
WHAT I DON'T TRUST IS THAT THIS LINE IS SECURE. I WILL TELL YOU WHEN I SEE YOU.
LOVE YOU. CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU TO GET HOME.
MOTHER, WAIT! I--
FINE.

LATER...
WHERE IS HE?
IN YOUR STUDY, SIRE.
T'CHALLA! I AM SO SORRY--
JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW. I NEED TO KNOW HOW YOU LOST YOUR COUSIN.
WE SNUCK ONTO THE U.S. WARSHIP TO FIND OUT WHAT THE AMERICANS WERE UP TO. WHO COULD HAVE EXPECTED HE WOULD BE THERE?
"HE"? HE WHO?
THE ONE OPPONENT YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO BEAT.

MEANWHILE, IN NIGANDA... NEAR THE WAKANDAN BORDER...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? I SEE HALF OF A SANDWICH!
I'M THIRSTY. I'LL GET ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US...
NOOOOOO!
HMMMM, MY DINNER JUST DOUBLED.
D-D-D-DID HE JUST... TALK?

BLA-POW
DON'T WORRY, CHILDREN...
KILLMONGER WILL PROTECT YOU FROM HARM!

MEANWHILE...
OH GOD, MY ARMS HURT.
DON'T YOU THINK THE CHAINS-ON-THE-WALL THING IS UNNECESSARY? I MEAN, WE'RE LOCKED IN A JAIL CELL. IT'S JUST STUPID.
SHURI?
SHURI, YOU'RE GOING TO HURT YOURSELF DOING THAT.
KKKKKKKKKK
WAIT... YOU'RE DOING IT!
ARRRGH!

ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M SORRY I GOT US INTO THIS MESS.
I AM RESPONSIBLE... FOR MY OWN CHOICES...
I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW...EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A PRINCESS, AND I'M JUST A COMMONER...
STOP IT.
NO, REALLY... I HAVE TO SAY THIS, BECAUSE IF SOMETHING HAPPENS AND I NEVER GET A CHANCE TO SAY THIS AGAIN, I WILL REGRET IT.
I LOVE YOU. AND IF I EVER GET THE CHANCE TO KISS YOU...
I SAID *STOP IT.* I MEAN IT.
YOU THINK THEY AREN'T WATCHING US NOW?

HELLO, T'CHALLA.
I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT, TONY. A KNOWN PSYCHOPATHIC KILLER NAMED ERIK KILLMONGER ■ IN THE EMPLOY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, PRESUMABLY AS PART OF A CONTAINMENT STRATEGY AGAINST WAKANDA.
KILLMONGER HAS KIDNAPPED MY SISTER.
THAT'S...
THIS IS OUTSIDE MY PURVIEW, T'CHALLA. YOU KNOW THAT.
OF COURSE, TONY. BUT I NEED TO KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THIS. I NEED YOUR HELP.
"KILLMONGER"-- ISN'T HE THE ONE WHO--
YES, ONE AND THE SAME.
I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.

IN A WORLD FULL OF PREDATORS...SOME ON FOUR LEGS, SOME ON TWO...WHO IS LOOKING OUT FOR YOU? WHO WILL PROTECT YOU?
I WILL PROTECT YOU FROM THE MONSTERS THAT ROAM THE STREAMS AND COUNTRYSIDE! I WILL PROTECT YOU FROM SOLDIERS THAT TAKE YOUR MONEY AND FOOD AND DIGNITY!
I WILL PROTECT YOU WITH *THIS*...
...AND *THIS*.
I WILL BRING NIGANDA INTO THE 21ST CENTURY, A WORLD WHERE THERE IS ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE TO EAT...
...ALL THE STREETS ARE PAVED...
...AND THERE IS FREE WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE!
UH-OH...

DISPERSE... NOW!
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
YOU STUPID IDIOTS. WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE BULLETS WHEN THEY LAND? HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL DIE BECAUSE YOU WANT ATTENTION?
DROP YOUR WEAPON!
THERE ARE CHILDREN IN THIS CROWD, OLD PEOPLE. YOU DON'T THINK OF THEM BEING TRAMPLED TO DEATH, DO YOU?
PREPARE TO FIRE ON MY COUNT...ONE...
BLAM
YOU'RE TOO DUMB TO LIVE.
BLAM

I'LL GIVE YOU THREE CHOICES:
YOU CAN DIE, YOU CAN RUN, OR YOU CAN JOIN MY ARMY.
WISE CHOICE, SON.
THANK YOU, BOY.
NOW... WHO ELSE IS WITH ME?!

MEANWHILE, AT THE WAKANDAN ARMORY...
IT'S CLEARLY A TRAP. HE'S EXPOSED IN ONE PUBLIC APPEARANCE AFTER ANOTHER IN THE STREETS OF NIGANDA, BUILDING PUBLIC SUPPORT AS THE NEXT STRONG MAN TO RULE THE COUNTRY.
IT'S AN EASY COUNTRY TO WIN OVER. SLAP DOWN OR PAY OFF THE LOCAL WARLORDS, HAND OUT SOME CHICKEN, AND THE PEOPLE LOVE YOU.
WHAT'S IN IT FOR HIM?
PROBABLY AN ARMS DEAL IN LIEU OF CASH WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THEY WANT ME TO EXPEND MY TIME AND ENERGY FIGHTING WITH HIM INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON THEM.
AND IS THAT WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN?
HE HAS MY SISTER.
LET OUR ARMIES STRIKE THE FIRST BLOW.
SAY WHAT'S REALLY ON YOUR MIND.

YOU'RE TOO CLOSE.
YOU THINK I CAN'T BEAT HIM?
I THINK YOU MIGHT KILL HIM BEFORE YOU FIND SHURI.
AND WHEN HAVE I BEEN THAT EMOTIONAL?
SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU USED A CANNON LIKE THAT?
OH...THIS IS NOTHING. JUST WEIGHING MY OPTIONS.
YOUR HIGHNESS... TONY STARK ON THE LINE!
WE'RE GOING TO CLEAN UP OUR OWN MESS HERE, T'CHALLA.
MEANING?
AS YOU MIGHT HAVE GUESSED, KILLMONGER'S HANDLERS CAN'T REIN HIM IN.
SO RATHER THAN DRAG YOU INTO ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT, THEY WILL RESOLVE THIS AND SET THINGS RIGHT.

THE ASSIGNMENT NEEDED SOMEONE VERY POWERFUL, VERY FAST, WITH GREAT STEALTH CAPABILITIES.
BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, SOMEONE YOU WOULD TRUST IN EVERY REGARD.
I THOUGHT CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS DEAD, TONY.
HARSH ONE, T'CHALLA. BUT YOU AREN'T FAR OFF.
"IT'S A CAPTAIN, BUT NOT THAT ONE.
"CAPTAIN MARVEL...PHOTON...PULSAR...WHATEVER SHE'S CALLING HERSELF NOW...IS PROBABLY OVER THE CONTINENT NOW ABOUT TO DROP IN ON MR. KILLMONGER."

HA HA! THAT'S WHAT YOU GET, BIG SHOTS!
MAKE WAY FOR A REAL MAN!
LOOK AT HOW THEY LIVED... WHILE WE HAD NOTHING...
THESE OLD COLONIAL TRAPPINGS ARE GARBAGE. ALL THIS WILL BE BROUGHT UP TO THE 21ST CENTURY.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY TRY TO KILL YOU?
OH, THEY'VE *TRIED*--SO MANY TIMES BEFORE.
I HAVE RESOURCES AT MY DISPOSAL THAT ARE BEYOND IMAGINATION. WHAT WITCH DOCTORS CLAIM THROUGH SUPERSTITION, I DO FOR REAL, THROUGH SCIENCE.
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO HOW THINGS WERE.
YOUR LIFE WILL *NEVER* BE THE SAME.

WHOOOSH
FWOOM

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK? GIVE HER A CHANCE?
IT'S AN IMPRESSIVE GAMBIT BY TONY, I'LL GIVE HIM THAT. PERFECT CASTING.
YOUR HIGHNESS, THERE'S A CALL...FROM KILLMONGER.
HELLO, T'CHALLA. I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOUR SISTER. FEAR NOT...

NEXT: RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE

Oroboros - champ
Biz - FrankBlack

The SKANKSTAS

If you like the comic, buy a copy. But don't buy us any more drinks *hic*

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